

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-27 (canceled).

Claim 28 (currently amended).      A surgical instrument for use in corneal reconstruction, comprising:

a connecting end; and

a hollow spatula-like member having a proximal end supported by said connecting end and a distal tip opposite said proximal end, said spatula-like member including an arcuate distal section formed in a plane along a curvature, said curvature having a radius of curvature substantially equal to a radius of curvature of a cornea of a human eye, and further including a fluid passageway therein ~~that is surrounded by a sidewall with a leading side and a trailing side~~, said fluid passageway being in fluid communication with a fluid source, with ~~said leading side~~ one side of said spatula-like member further including a plurality of apertures wherefrom ~~whereby~~ fluid from said fluid source may be ejected ~~onto the cornea,~~

wherein said surgical instrument is adapted to separate epithelium layers of a cornea.

Claim 29 (previously presented).      The surgical instrument of claim 28 wherein said spatula-like member has a trapezoidal cross-sectional shape.

Claim 30 (canceled).

Claim 31 (previously presented). The surgical instrument of claim 28 wherein said distal tip includes an aperture whereby fluid from said fluid source may be ejected onto the cornea.

Claim 32 (previously presented). The surgical instrument of claim 28 wherein said fluid source is a syringe connected to said connecting end.

Claim 33 (previously presented). The surgical instrument of claim 28 wherein said spatula-like member has a height of no greater than about 0.5 millimeters.

Claim 34 (original). The surgical instrument of claim 28 wherein said distal section has a length of about 10 millimeters to about 15 millimeters.

Claims 35-38 (canceled).

Claim 39 (previously presented). The surgical instrument of claim 28 wherein there are 15 to 25 apertures.

Claim 40 (previously presented). The surgical instrument of claim 28 wherein the diameter of said apertures ranges from about 0.05 millimeters to 0.10 millimeters.

Claim 41 (previously presented). The surgical instrument of claim 28 wherein the apertures are evenly spaced about 0.4 millimeters apart along said leading side.

Claim 42 (previously presented). The surgical instrument of claim 28 wherein said distal section curvature has a radius of curvature between about 8 millimeters and about 12 millimeters.

Claim 43 (previously presented). The surgical instrument of claim 28 wherein said proximal end is oriented with respect to the distal section to form a vertical angle of about 40 degrees to about 60 degrees.

Claim 44 (previously presented). The surgical instrument of claim 29 wherein said trapezoidal spatula-like member has a top side and an opposing contact side, said top side having a width of about 0.5 millimeters to about 1.0 millimeters, and said contact side having a width of about 0.75 millimeters to about 1.25 millimeters.